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SERIAL: HK1109052390

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

COUNTRY: PRC

SUBJ: TAKE 1 OF 3--CPC'S CRACKDOWN ON QIGONG BODIES VIEWED

SOURCE: HONG KONG TANGTAI IN CHINESE NO. 39, 25 AUG 90 PP 14-15
TEXT:

(((ARTICLE BY CHI TA (1323 6671): "THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES TAKE ACTION TO PURGE THE 'QIGONG PARTY'"))

((TEXT)) ((EDITOR'S NOTES)) IN CHINA, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE PRACTICING QIGONG ((HEALTH REGIMEN INVOLVING BREATHING EXERCISES AND MEDITATION)) EXERCISES AND BELIEVING IN QIGONG EXCEEDS 200 MILLION, AND VARIOUS TYPES OF "QIGONG INSTITUTES" HAVE OVER 50 MILLION MEMBERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. ORDINARY CHINESE PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY REPLACED COMMUNISM WITH QIGONG IN THEIR MINDS, AND THE POLITICAL OLD MEN IN BEIJING ALSO DEPEND ON QIGONG TO SUSTAIN THEIR LIVES. RECENTLY, HOWEVER, THE CPC HAS BECOME AWARE OF THE THREAT POSED BY THE QIGONG PARTY, AND IS PURGING THE QIGONG CIRCLES. ((END EDITOR'S NOTES))

QIGONG HAS AN ENORMOUS POWER AND MARKET IN TODAY'S MAINLAND CHINA. ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL CPC BULLETINS, 50 MILLION PEOPLE AROUND THE COUNTRY PRACTICE QIGONG EXERCISES. HOWEVER, THIS IS ONLY A CONSERVATIVE FIGURE. IN CHINA, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE DIRECTLY PRACTICING QIGONG EXERCISES AND BELIEVING IN QIGONG EXCEEDS 200 MILLION, AND THEY ARE CALLED THE "QIGONG PARTY." RECENTLY, THE CPC HAS BEGUN TO PURIFY THE QIGONG PARTY AND ARRESTED SOME "QIGONG MASTERS" WHO ARE CELEBRATED ACROSS THE COUNTRY. NUMEROUS PEOPLE ARE

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ALSO INVOLVED. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, "QIGONG" HAS BECOME AN INCOMPARABLY HOT TOPIC AND HAS DRAWN PEOPLE'S PARTICULAR ATTENTION.

MANY LEADERS ALSO BELIEVE IN QIGONG ((SUBHEAD))

BESIDES THE CPC, THE ONLY LEGITIMATE ASSOCIATION THAT HAS SPREAD MOST SUCCESSFULLY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY IS THE "QIGONG ASSOCIATION." IT IS A NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION. AMONG THE BELIEVERS IN THE COUNTRY ARE SUPREME LEADERS LIKE DENG XIAOPING, YANG SHANGKUN, WANG RENZHONG, PUBLIC SECURITY MINISTER WANG FANG, AND POLITICAL BUREAU MEMBER HU QILI WHO HAS ALREADY STEPPED DOWN; MEDIUM-LEVEL LEADERS SUCH AS MINISTERS AT ALL LEVELS, PROVINCIAL LEADING CADRES, INTELLECTUALS, GRASSROOTS LEADERS; AND THE GRASSROOTS SUCH AS WORKERS AND PEASANTS.

THE REASON "QIGONG MASTERS" ARE CELEBRATED IS THAT IN THE FIRST PLACE THEY PAY MEDICAL ATTENTION TO SENIOR CPC LEADERS. CELEBRATED QIGONG MASTERS YAN XIN, ZHANG XIANGYU, ZHU HETING, AND OTHERS WON THEIR FAME ACROSS THE COUNTRY AFTER CURING SENIOR LEADERS IN BEIJING BY USING THEIR QI ((POWER OF BREATH)). SOME FAMOUS QIGONG PERSONALITIES SAID: EACH OF THE EIGHT "OLD ONES" (DENG XIAOPING, CHEN YUN, YANG SHANGKUN, DENG YINGCHAO, LI XIANNIAN, AND OTHERS) HAS BY THEIR SIDE FOUR TO FIVE QIGONG EXPERTS ALLOCATED BY THE STATE. THEY USE QI ON THEM, CURE THEM, AND PREDICT THE FUTURE FOR THEM. MOREOVER, SINCE QIGONG MASTERS PRACTICE DIVINATION ACCORDING TO THE "I-CHING" ((BOOK OF CHANGES)), THEY CAN CARRY ON POLITICAL STRUGGLES WITH THEIR OPPONENTS. SOME POLITICIANS IN ZHONGNANHAI ALWAYS TAKE COUNSEL WITH THEIR QIGONG MASTERS IN "MAKING A MOVE," "CHANGING IT," AND "RETURNING TO THE DEFENSIVE." NOW IN ZHONGNANHAI OVER 200 QIGONG MASTERS, OR "BODY-PROTECTING DOCTORS" AND "ADVANCED BRAIN TRUSTERS" ARE EMPLOYED. THEY GO WITH THEIR LEADERS ON THEIR TRIPS AND VISITS, AND LIVE WITH THEM. THE FOLLOWING CASES ARE REPORTED: YANG SHANGKUN GREATLY ENJOYS CHATTING WITH HIS QIGONG MASTERS. WANG RENZHONG WAS CURED OF HIS BACK PAIN, WHICH HAD LASTED FOR MANY YEARS, BY A QIGONG MASTER INVITED FROM THE HILLS IN HUNAN PROVINCE. CHEN YUN NEEDS FOUR QIGONG MASTERS, COMING FROM YUNNAN AND THE NORTHEAST, TO SUPPLY HIM WITH QI TO SUSTAIN HIS LIFE IN ADDITION TO BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS. HU QILI HAS PRACTICED QIGONG EXERCISES FOR OVER A DOZEN YEARS; WHEN THE POLITICAL BUREAU DEMANDED ITS MEMBERS TO EXPRESS THEIR STAND BEFORE "4 JUNE" HE FELT CONFLICTING INTERESTS. AT LAST, BY RELYING ON "QIGONG," HE BELIEVED THAT HE OUGHT TO ACT ACCORDING TO CONSCIENCE. SO HE SUPPORTED ZHAO ZIYANG INDIRECTLY.

TWO THOUSAND QIGONG MASTERS ARE EMPLOYED AT ALL LEADERSHIP STRATA ACROSS THE COUNTRY ((SUBHEAD))

IN THE LEADERSHIP OF ALL PROVINCES AND CITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY, NEARLY 2,000 QIGONG MASTERS ARE EMPLOYED. HAVING THE SPECIAL CONVENIENCES, THESE LEADERS ARE ABLE TO FIND SOME OUTSTANDING QIGONG PERSONALITIES. THEY EITHER RETAIN THEM BY THEIR SIDE OR RECOMMEND THEM TO THEIR "OLD SENIORS." WHENEVER YU FEI, VICE-GOVERNOR OF GUANGDONG PROVINCE, FLIES TO HONG KONG OR VISITS OTHER COUNTRIES, HE MUST HAVE A QIGONG MASTER WITH HIM.

SINCE 1985, QIGONG HAS BECOME POPULAR IN CHINA, AND "QIGONG

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TEACHERS" HAVE BECOME SPECIAL PERSONALITIES. ANY CELEBRATED QIGONG PERFORMER DEFINITELY COMES FROM A CERTAIN IMPORTANT FIGURE. THEY ARE WELL INFORMED, LIVE AN EASY LIFE, AND ARE INVITED HERE AND THERE BY OFFICIALS AT ALL LEVELS. WHENEVER A BIG EVENT OCCURS OR A VERY SENSITIVE PROBLEM CROPS UP IN THE MAINLAND'S POLITICAL CIRCLE, RELEVANT PEOPLE FREQUENTLY ASK THE HELP OF QIGONG MASTERS. IN FACT, IT IS RARE FOR MEDIUM-LEVEL AND SENIOR OFFICIALS IN CHINA TO HAVE NO QIGONG MASTERS BY THEIR SIDE OR NO FRIENDS IN THE QIGONG CIRCLE. IN CHINA, QIGONG HAS BECOME A KIND OF POLITICS. THOSE WHO KNOW NOTHING ABOUT CHINA'S QIGONG AND THE "I-CHING" HAVE MUCH DIFFICULTY BECOMING SENIOR OFFICIALS OR MAKING A FORTUNE. A SENIOR OFFICIAL OF THE STATE COMMISSION FOR RESTRUCTURING THE ECONOMIC SYSTEM SAID: "THERE IS ENDLESS WONDER IN IT. IF YOU ARE CONVERSANT WITH QIGONG AND THE RULES OF CHANGE, YOU WILL BE AS GOOD IN CHINA AS A FISH SWIMMING IN THE WATER, CONTROLLING THINGS AS YOU PLEASE."

/***** BEGINNING OF TAKE 002 *****/

REF: HK1109052390 HONG KONG TANGTAI CHINESE NO. 39, 25 AUG//AS
YOU PLEASE."

TEXT:

((TEXT)) MEMBERS OF QIGONG BODIES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY TOTAL MORE THAN 20 MILLION ((SUBHEAD))

THE COMMON PEOPLE THINK THAT SINCE "PUBLIC OFFICIALS" SET STORE BY QIGONG, IT MUST BE "GENUINE." MOREOVER, SINCE OLD TIMES PEOPLE HAVE HAD THE TRADITION AND CUSTOM OF USING WUSHU ((MARTIAL ARTS)) AND QIGONG FOR HEALING PURPOSES, AND ORDINARY CHINESE PEOPLE HAVE ESTEEMED IT AND ARDENTLY LOVED IT. IN EVERY PROVINCE AND CITY, SPECIAL NONGOVERNMENTAL "QIGONG BODIES" HAVE BEEN SET UP. NOW THERE ARE OVER 30 BODIES, SIMILAR IN NATURE TO THE "QIGONG ASSOCIATION," ACROSS THE COUNTRY, HAVING OVER 20 MILLION MEMBERS. IN BEIJING AND SHANGHAI, THEY HAVE SEVERAL HUNDRED MEMBERS EACH. THE QIGONG YU KEXUE ((QIGONG AND SCIENCE)) MONTHLY MAGAZINE PUBLISHED IN GUANGZHOU SELLS NEARLY ONE MILLION COPIES PER ISSUE. SOME UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH UNITS ACROSS THE COUNTRY AS WELL AS CIVIL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENTS, PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS, SPORTS DEPARTMENTS, TRADE UNIONS, AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS ARE CARRYING OUT DIFFERENT QIGONG ACTIVITIES, HOLDING VARIOUS KINDS OF SYMPOSIUMS ON QIGONG, AND GIVING PUBLIC LECTURES ACCOMPANIED BY QIGONG DEMONSTRATIONS. IN 1988, SEVERAL DOZEN SUCH LECTURES WERE GIVEN IN EACH BIG CITY INCLUDING SHANGHAI, GUANGZHOU, BEIJING, XIAN, WUHAN, AND KUNMING; OVER 60 MILLION PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY ATTENDED THEM. TICKETS FOR MASTER YANXIN'S DEMONSTRATION LECTURES AT THE WORKERS' GYMNASIUM IN BEIJING AND THE TIANHE GYMNASIUM IN GUANGZHOU COST FROM AS MUCH AS 20 YUAN TO 100 YUAN, AND EACH SESSION LASTED 12 HOURS AND HAD AN AUDIENCE OF 5,000 TO 6,000 PEOPLE. THEY BROUGHT THEIR FOOD AND SAT AT THE GYMNASIUM PRACTICING QIGONG ALL EVENING, FANATICALLY ENGROSSED.

QIGONG IN SOME PLACES OF CHINA IS NOT ONLY LIMITED TO HARD EXERCISES SUCH AS CUTTING GOLD AND CRACKING JADE, GRAPPLING WITH AND OVERPOWERING OTHERS, LEAPING ONTO ROOFS AND VAULTING OVER WALLS, OR

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EVEN TO THE SOFT EXERCISES SUCH AS HEALING AND KEEPING PEOPLE FIT AND HEALTHY. IT ALSO INCLUDES THE MAINLAND'S NUMEROUS MYSTICAL KNOWLEDGE AND ARTS SUCH AS I-CHING STUDIES, FORTUNE-TELLING, DIVINATION, SPECIAL HUMAN FUNCTIONS, AS WELL AS WITCHCRAFT, PSYCHIC ARTS, AND FENGSHUI ((CHINESE GEOMANCY)). THEY ALL CONSCIOUSLY OR UNCONSCIOUSLY FALL INTO THE BOUNDARY OF QIGONG FUNCTIONS.

THE CPC NO LONGER PUBLICLY PROMOTES QIGONG ((SUBHEAD))

AS A MATTER OF FACT, AT THE BACK OF QIGONG FUNCTIONS LIES A WHOLE SET OF CULTURES TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM COMMUNISM. THOSE PRACTICING QIGONG BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE GODS AND SPIRITS IN THE HEAVENS, AND THAT ALL PEOPLE HAVE SOULS. THEY ALSO BELIEVE THAT THE WORLD IS NEITHER PHYSICAL NOR CONCEPTUAL, BUT IS THE INDESCRIBABLE "WORD" ((DAO 6670)) AND ELEMENTS, OR THE "ELEMENTARY BREATH." TO THE MODERN MAN, THEY ARE "NONEXISTENT," WHILE ON A CERTAIN LEVEL OF QIGONG THEY REALLY EXIST. ON THIS LEVEL, PEOPLE CAN DIRECTLY PERCEIVE THE WORLD AND SIMPLY AND ACCURATELY MASTER IT. HUMAN BIRTH, AGE, ILLNESS, AND DEATH AND THE WORLD'S MEETING AND SEPARATION ALL HAVE BECOME SIMPLE AND UNDERSTANDABLE. ALL ARE INEVITABLE AND FATALISTIC, AND VOID AND EMPTY. THE CHINESE PEOPLE HAVE LOST CONFIDENCE IN THE CPC'S PROMISES, AND SO THEY USE "QIGONG" OR SIMILAR BELIEFS TO FILL THE VACUUM IN THEIR SOULS. THIS IS, INDEED, A GREAT SATIRE ON THE FUNDAMENTAL TENETS OF MARXISM.

THE CPC TAKES A VERY UTILITARIAN AND PRACTICAL ATTITUDE TOWARD QIGONG. WITHIN THE SIX MONTHS BEGINNING FROM THE TIME BEFORE "4 JUNE" TO THE TIME AFTER IT, THE CPC ENCOURAGED AND SUPPORTED PEOPLE TO PRACTICE QIGONG. NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES FREQUENTLY PROMOTED AND INTRODUCED QIGONG KNOWLEDGE, AND THE GOVERNMENT ALSO HELD SYMPOSIUMS ON QIGONG FREQUENTLY. BECAUSE AT THAT TIME "QIGONG" WAS NOT INVOLVED IN POLITICS. IT NEITHER ATTEMPTED TO OVERTHROW THE CPC NOR DEMANDED IT TO SPEED UP REFORM IN ANY FORM. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE QIGONG CRAZE SPREAD AS NEVER BEFORE. SINCE "4 JUNE," THE QIGONG PARTY HAS BECOME MORE WIDESPREAD, AND PEOPLE GENERALLY BELIEVE THAT THE LIVES OF THE SEVERAL OLD MEN IN POWER ARE SUSTAINED BY QIGONG MASTERS. SOME INNER INFORMATION SPREAD THAT THEY KNEW BEFOREHAND THAT WITHIN A CERTAIN TIME THE CPC WOULD DEFINITELY LOSE MORE OF THE PEOPLE'S SUPPORT, AND THAT "4 JUNE" WOULD BE "REDRESSED." IT ALSO DISCLOSED THE LIFESPANS OF THE POLITICAL OLD MEN OF THE CPC. IN OCTOBER 1989, A NUMBER OF NATIONAL CELEBRATED QIGONG MASTERS ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WOULD RETURN TO THE HILLS AND CONTINUE TO LIVE THE HERMIT'S LIFE. THEY ESTIMATED THAT THEY WOULD LEAVE THE HILLS AGAIN AFTER "4 JUNE" HAS BEEN REDRESSED. THESE KINDS OF MYSTERIES HAVE CAUSED MORE PEOPLE TO JOIN THE "QIGONG PARTY." MOREOVER, SINCE "4 JUNE," INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION HAS SLOWED DOWN AND INTELLECTUALS HAVE BECOME SILENT. THEREFORE PEOPLE HAVE MORE SPARE TIME FOR CONCENTRATING ON "QIGONG" EXERCISES.

IN RECENT MONTHS, HOWEVER, THE CPC TOP HIERARCHY HAS COME TO KNOW THAT THIS QIGONG PARTY, WHICH APPEARS NOT TO INTERFERE WITH POLITICS, EMBRACES LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE AS ITS BASIS ON THE ONE HAND, AND IS ACTUALLY PLAYING A ROLE OF CAUSING PEOPLE TO WAIT NEGATIVELY AND NOT TO COOPERATE WITH THE CPC BY PEACEFUL MEANS ON THE OTHER. NOW THE PEOPLE HAVE LOST THE MORALE AND ENTHUSIASM TO

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RESPOND TO THE CPC'S APPEALS, CAUSING DIFFICULTIES FOR THE NATIONAL ECONOMY.

/***** BEGINNING OF TAKE 003 *****/

REF: HK1109052390 HONG KONG TANGTAI CHINESE NO. 39, 25 AUG///THE NATIONAL ECONOMY.

TEXT:

((TEXT)) ((PARAGRAPH CONTINUES)) MOREOVER, POLITICALLY SPEAKING, IN THE EYES OF THE CPC, ONCE THESE KINDS OF BODIES, WHICH ARE NOT POLITICALLY-ORIENTED AND HAVE NEARLY 200 MILLION MEMBERS, BECOME AN INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATIONAL SYSTEM, ITS VERY EXISTENCE POSES A THREAT. THEY ARE AFRAID THAT THESE NATIONAL CELEBRATED QIGONG MASTERS WILL PLAY A PART IN WAKING THE PEOPLE UP.

THE "NATURAL CENTER ASSOCIATION" DISBANDED ((SUBHEAD))

THE CPC IS BEGINNING TO PURGE SOME QIGONG BODIES, AND THE MOST FAR-REACHING CASE WAS THE ARREST OF "QIGONG MASTER" ZHANG XIANGYU IN BEIJING. ALTHOUGH SHE ONCE DONATED TWO MILLION YUAN TO THE ASIAN GAMES, HER GROUP THE "NATURAL CENTER ASSOCIATION" WAS FORCED TO DISBAND. THE CPC HAS STIPULATED THAT NO INTER-PROVINCIAL AND INTER-CITY QIGONG ASSOCIATIONS BE ALLOWED TO BE ESTABLISHED, THAT NO QIGONG PROFESSIONALS BE ALLOWED TO START UP BUSINESSES WITHOUT MEDICAL DIPLOMAS AWARDED BY THE STATE, AND THAT LARGE PUBLIC QIGONG LECTURES NO LONGER BE ALLOWED. THE GOVERNMENTS OF ALL PROVINCES AND CITIES HAVE TAKEN EMERGENCY MEASURES BY PROMULGATING THE "TEMPORARY SUSPENSION MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS FOR QIGONG PHYSICAL TRAINING." THE GOVERNMENTS OF SHANGHAI, BEIJING, GUANGZHOU, XIAN, AND OTHER PLACES HAVE ALSO ESTABLISHED "OFFICES MANAGING QIGONG FOR PHYSICAL TRAINING." THE OFFICE DIRECTOR IN SHANGHAI IS CALLED ZHANG DEJUN. HE SAID: "THE OFFICE MANAGES QIGONG-TREATMENT BODIES IN THE MUNICIPALITY. SHANGHAI HAS FORMULATED 14 ARTICLES FOR THEIR MANAGEMENT AND RECTIFICATION. AND SPECIAL TELEPHONE NUMBERS CAN BE DIALLED FOR THE SUPERVISION OF AND REPORTING ABOUT QIGONG TEACHERS." AND BEIJING RIBAO IS BEGINNING TO WRITE ARTICLES SATIRICALLY CRITICIZING QIGONG PERSONALITIES HEADED BY ZHANG XIANGYU. THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF CHINA AND THE CHINESE HERBAL MEDICAL CIRCLES IN BEIJING HAVE, AT THE GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST, ALSO DENOUNCED QIGONG AS A SUPERSTITION AND A MAGIC ART USED BY SOME TO CHEAT PEOPLE OF MONEY AND FOOL PEOPLE. THE FAMOUS WRITER KE YUNLU'S NOVEL "THE GREAT QIGONG MASTER," WHICH DISSEMINATES QIGONG, WAS ALSO BANNED, AND HE WAS ARRESTED BECAUSE OF "4 JUNE."

ORDINARY CHINESE PEOPLE HOLD THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION IN CONTEMPT, GENERALLY BELIEVING THAT THE GOVERNMENT "ONLY ALLOWS ITSELF TO DO A LOT OF UNREASONABLE THINGS BUT DOES NOT ALLOW THE PEOPLE TO DO A SINGLE REASONABLE THING." THE CPC TOP HIERARCHY STILLS WORSHIPS QIGONG AND IS VIGOROUSLY LOOKING FOR GIFTED QIGONG PEOPLE. IT IS SAID THAT ZHANG XIANGYU GOT INTO TROUBLE AFTER SNEERING AT YANG SHANGKUN FOR ORDERING SOLDIERS TO FIRE AT STUDENTS AND WARNED HIM THAT HE WOULD END UP BAD, AT A MEDICAL CONSULTATION AFTER "4 JUNE." SINCE TOO MANY PEOPLE BELIEVE IN QIGONG, THE GOVERNMENT WAS MORE

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CAREFUL IN MAKING THIS MOVE AND DARED NOT BE RECKLESS THIS TIME.

IT IS A POPULAR SAYING AMONG THE PEOPLE ON THE MAINLAND THAT THE FACT THAT THIS KIND OF NIHILISM SPREADS WIDE IS THE PRELUDE TO THE CHANGE OF REGIMES AS ATTESTED IN HISTORY. ALTHOUGH THIS IS ONLY A HOPE, IT ALSO REFLECTS SOME PEOPLE'S THINKING.

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